

motor vehicle, including a retaining device positioned in a relevant cross-sectional region of a cavity for a shaped element made of expansible material.--

In the Claims:

Sub B¹ Claim 1 (amended). A configuration for separating cavities for sealing or sound-proofing, comprising:

an expansible shaped element constructed as a contoured ring-like plate; and

a retaining device to be positioned in a cross-sectional region of a cavity, said retaining device having two separately produced half-shells to be latched to one another at a distance from one another using a latching device, said expansible shaped element being retained between said half-shells;

one of said half-shells having an inner contour;

said half-shells forming an outer peripheral border region therebetween in a latched state; and

said half-shells defining a free gap therebetween being open toward said border region, bounded inwardly by said inner contour and by said expansible shaped element and having a shape corresponding substantially to said shaped element.

Sub E2
Claim 2 (amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said half-shells have inner surfaces, and said latching device is disposed on said inner surfaces for connecting said half-shells.

Sub C2
Claim 3 (amended). The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said latching device is a mushroom shaped latching element to be arrested in an opening formed in an inner wall of a cavity to be sealed.

Sub B2
A2
(cont'd)
Claim 4 (amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said shaped element has material-free spaces in the area next to said latching device.

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Claim 5 (amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said two half-shells are first and second half-shells, said first half-shell has said inner contour, said second half-shell has a region corresponding to said inner contour, and said latching devices are disposed within said inner contour and said ^{N.A.} region of said second half-shell.

Sub E2
A3
Claim 7 (amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on a surface of one of said half-shells for connection to an inner wall of a cavity to be separated off.

Claim 8 (amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on a border of one of said half-shells for connection to an inner wall of a cavity to be separated off.

Enter The Following New Claim:

Sub B³ 11. A configuration for separating cavities for sealing or sound-proofing, comprising:

an expansible element; and

a retaining device to be positioned in a cross-sectional region of a cavity, said retaining device having two half-shells to be fixated to one another such as to have a free gap between said two half-shells, said two half-shells having a shape corresponding substantially to said expansible element, and said expansible element being retained between said two half-shells.

12. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein one of said two half-shells has an inner contour enclosing said expansible element.--

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.